

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 220210Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2836

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1723

EXDIS

EA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER FROM AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: PERIODIC U.S. - AUSTRALIAN DISCUSSIONS OF POLICY ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: U.S. IS COMMITTED TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ON NORTHWEST CAPE UNDER JOINT STATEMENT OF JAN 9 WITH MINISTER FOR DEFENSE BARNARD. NO REASON FOR US TO CONSTRUE THIS COMMITMENT NARROWLY AND EVERY REASON TO FOLLOW FORM OF MAR 6 MEETING WITH DFA OFFICIALS IN CANBERRA. ACTION REQUESTED THAT I HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON FOL PROPOSAL AND HAVE AUTHORITY TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC FORM AND APPROXIMATE DATE TO AUSTRALIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED BY NOW COPY OF MEMCON PREPARED BY EMBASSY AND POUCHED TO YOU MAR 12, COVERING MEETING WE HAD WITH SENIOR DFA OFFICERS ON MAR 6 DURING YOUR VISIT IN CANBERRA. YOU MAY RECALL THAT AT END OF MEETING THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING OF SATISFACTION AT FRANKNESS AND DEPTH OF DISCUSSION AND GENERAL AGREEMENT IT WAS WORTH REPEATING.

3. MAR 7 BRIAN HILL (ONE OF PARTICIPANTS AND FIRST ASST SECRETARY OF PACIFIC AND WESTERN DIVISION OF DFA) PHONED ME TO SAY, AON ALAN RENOUF'S BEHALF, THAT DFA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND ONE OR TWO RANKING AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS AT DEPT OF STATE AND MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. HILL ALSO SUGGESTED
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THAT WHENEVER A RANKING DEPT OF STATE OFFICIAL COMES THROUGH

CANBERRA, ANOTHER MEETING SIMILAR TO THAT OF MAR 6 BE SET UP FOR SUCH EXCHANGES.

4. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A COMMITMENT, SET OUT IN THE JOINT STATEMENT WITH MINISTER FOR DEFENSE BARNARD OF JAN 9, TO FIND A FORMAT FOR CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH AUSTRALIANS. THE FOCUS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT IS NORTHWEST CAPE, BUT THERE IS NO PROCTICAL WAY, IN MY VIEW, TO LIMIT CONSULTATIONS NARROWLY AND NO REASON FOR US TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO. PRECISE FORM OF CONSULTATIONS MENTIONED IN JOINT STATEMENT HAS NEVER BEEN SET, AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, BUT FORMAT OF MEETING OF MAR 6 SEEMS TO BE A GOOD ONE, WITH DATE, ATTENDANCE AND VENUE TO BE DETERMINED EACH TIME BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

5. I BELIEVE IT ALSO DESIRABLE TO BRING RANKING OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS HERE FROM TIME TO TIME. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND CANBERRA FOR SUCH MEETINGS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE VENUE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AD HOC DECISION, DEPENDING ON WHO IS AVAILABLE. I HAVE IN MIND FOR FUTURE MEETINGS IN CANBERRA A TOP OFFICER FROM EA, PERHAPS WIN LORD OR HIS DEPUTY FROM S/P, OR SEY WEISS FROM PM. AS TO FREQUENCY, I SUGGEST MEETINGS ABOUT EVERY SIX MONTHS, WITH SPECIFIC DATES DEPENDING ON SCHEDULES OF WELL-QUALIFIED OFFICERS. I WOULD, OF COURSE, PLAN TO JOIN IN THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN CANBERRA.

6. I BELIEVE OUR DISCUSSION OF MAR 6 WAS A MODEL OF WHAT WE WANT. THERE WAS A FAIRLY SHARP FOCUS ON PROBLEM AREAS WHICH WAS BENEFICIAL IN SUBSTANTIVE TERMS. AT SOME TIME I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A SIMILAR DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON CHINA, JAPAN, USSR AND WORLD SCENE. WE PROBABLY HAVE FEWER DIFFERENCES WITH THE AUSTRALIANS IN THOSE AREAS THAN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT THE UNCERTAINTIES LYING AHEAD MAKE SUCH A DISCUSSION HIGHLY USEFUL IN MANY WAYS.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING, I WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR VIEWS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TIMEING AND HAVING AUTHORITY TO SUGGEST TO RENOUF SPECIFIC FORM FOR DISCUSSIONS AND APPROXIMATE DATE. GREEN

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